

Marines provide disaster relief in Philippines

1st Lt. Jeanscott Dodd

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

MANILA, Republic of the Philippines — Personnel and aircraft with III Marine Expeditionary Force began providing humanitarian assistance and disaster relief support Dec. 8 at the request of the government of the Republic of the Philippines in the wake of Typhoon Pablo (international name Bopha), which made landfall Dec. 4.

Marines with 3rd Marine Expeditionary Brigade, who were in Manila conducting planning for future bilateral training exercises with the Armed Forces of the Philippines, stood up the III MEF forward command element Dec. 8 to support relief efforts led by the Philippine government.

"The III MEF forward command element has established the bilateral coordination center, which is providing command and control for U.S. Marine relief efforts and coordinating requests for support with the government and Armed Forces of the Philippines, U.S. Embassy and Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance, part of the U.S. Agency for International Development," said Col. Mark J. Menotti, the officer in charge of the III MEF FCE.

"We have personnel with the Armed Forces of the Philippines, Pacific Air Forces, OFDA, Joint-U.S. Military Assistance Group-Philippines and Joint Special Operations Task Force-Philippines in the bilateral coordination center in order to prioritize and synchronize humanitarian assistance and relief efforts, which ultimately makes that coordination more efficient."

Two KC-130J Hercules see **PHILIPPINES** pg 5



Philippine Air Force members and U.S. Marines load family ration packs Dec. 11 at Villamor Air Base in Manila during humanitarian assistance and disaster relief operations. The Marines transported the supplies via KC-130J Hercules aircraft to Davao International Airport for further distribution to citizens in need throughout Mindanao, the region of the Philippines most affected by Typhoon Bopha, which made landfall Dec. 4. The U.S. Marines are with Marine Aerial Refueler Transport Squadron 152, Marine Aircraft Group 36, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, III Marine Expeditionary Force. Photo courtesy of U.S. Embassy Manila

Flexed-arm hang out, pullups in

Pfc. Kasey Peacock

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

CAMP FOSTER — The Commandant of the Marine Corps Gen. James F. Amos announced Nov. 27 that all female Marines will perform pullups as a part of their physical fitness tests beginning Jan. 1, 2014.

A transition period will begin Jan. 1, 2013 to allow female Marines an adjustment period for the new requirement.

see **PULLUP** pg 5



Lance Cpl. Katelyn M. Hunter conducts pullups during an initial assessment at Camp Foster Dec. 12. Hunter is a combat photographer with combat camera, G-3/5, operations and training, Marine Corps Base Camp Butler, Marine Corps Installations Pacific. Photo by Pfc. Kasey Peacock

Marines conduct arrested landings during Forager Fury

Lance Cpl. J. Gage Karwick

MARINE CORPS AIR STATION IWAKUNI

TINIAN, Northern Mariana Islands — Training continued last week as participating units conducted arrested landings and 24-hour surge operations during Exercise Forager Fury 2012.

Forager Fury is a training exercise that integrates Marine Air-Ground Task Force functions with an emphasis on tactical aviation and aviation ground support to further develop distributed, expeditionary airfield capabilities.

The participating aircraft are with Marine All-Weather Fighter

Attack Squadrons 224 and 225, which are currently assigned under the unit deployment program to Marine Aircraft Group 12, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, III Marine Expeditionary Force. The Marines providing the aviation ground support are with Marine Wing Support Squadron 171, MAG-12.

"The F/A-18s came in to do a field arrestment exercise to help train our expeditionary airfield Marines on the emplacement and operation of expeditionary equipment," said Maj. Matthew Halbert, the officer in charge of Marine forces on Tinian and airfield operations company commander

see **FURY** pg 5



TOYS FOR TOTS ACCEPTING DONATIONS THROUGH DEC. 24

Toys For Tors

SPREADING HOLIDAY CHEER

The Corps is spreading holiday cheer to Marines, families and local communities at a variety of events and festivals.

PGS. 6-7

CHAPEL HOLY DAYS SPECIAL WORSHIP SERVICES SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

PG. 11

Happy Holidays Marines

Message from III MEF, MCIPAC commanders

In 2012, we have trained alongside our regional partners and allies on numerous occasions, preparing to respond as a coalition force or on our own if need be. Many of us deployed to Afghanistan, and many graciously volunteered time and energy in our local communities. You have shown unrelenting dedication to each other, commitment to the Corps, and devotion to duty, and we are proud to serve with you. Enjoy your well-deserved rest and festivities as 2012 draws to a close.

For most, the holiday season is a time of joy and celebration with loved ones. For others, it can be a reminder that we are temporarily separated from family. No matter how you celebrate during the holiday season, reach out to those Marines and sailors who are far from home and invite them to join you. Remember, we are family, and we must care for our brothers and sisters.

Liberty commences as follows:

For III Marine Expeditionary Force and Marine Corps Installations Pacific military personnel, to include those stationed on Hawaii: 4:30 p.m. Dec. 21 to 7:30 a.m. Dec. 26 and 4:30 p.m. Dec. 28 to 7:30 a.m. Jan. 2.

For civilian employees: supervisors of U.S. civilian appropriated fund employees

may permit liberal leave procedures for their employees if mission and workload permit. The observed holidays for all U.S. civilian employees are Dec. 25 and Jan. 1. A liberal leave policy will be in effect on Dec. 24 and Dec. 31. The observed holidays for all Japanese employees are Dec. 25 and Dec. 28 to Jan. 3.

"Make wise decisions as you enjoy holiday celebrations."

The holiday season is a time to celebrate, relax, and recharge. While looking at past ac-

complishments and anticipating future challenges, remember to recognize those around you for their hard work and many accomplishments of the past year. These should bolster our confidence for continued success in the year to come.

While you are celebrating, it is imperative that you do not let your guard down. Make wise decisions as you enjoy holiday celebrations.

Drinking and driving or other destructive decisions will endanger you and everyone else - it can end lives and careers and affects our mission here in the Asia-Pacific region. Remember, you represent the military and the entire nation. A single moment of bad judgment will have strategic implications, so hold each other accountable to our high standards. Adhere to our core values and stay the course of true north!







Jeff Pieters, right, familiarizes Singapore Guard Cpl. Robert Pradeep with the proper firing procedures for the .50-caliber Browning machine gun at Camp Pendleton, Calif., Dec. 3 during Exercise Valiant Mark 2012. The guardsmen quickly learned the functions of the weapon system and were excited about applying them on a live-fire range, according to Pieters. Pieters is a machine gunner with 2nd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment. Photo by Lance Cpl. Corey Dabney



Marine Captains Jonathan Lewenthal and Eric Scheibe fly over southern Helmand province, Afghanistan, Dec. 6 after completing an aerial refueling mission. Marine Attack Squadron 231 deployed to Afghanistan to provide close-air support for counter insurgency operations. Lewenthal and Scheibe are both AV-8B Harrier pilots with VMA-231, Marine Aircraft Group 14, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing (Forward). Photo by Cpl. Gregory Moore



The U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Pacific party band performs during the Na Mele o na Keiki (music for the children) holiday concert in Honolulu Dec. 2. The concert provided an opportunity to receive donations for the U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Reserve nationwide Toys for Tots donation program. The program collects new, unwrapped toys each year and distributes those toys as Christmas gifts to less fortunate children. Photo by Cpl. Isis M. Ramirez



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Toys for Tots in full swing on Okinawa



Michelle M. Cordova donates a toy to the Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots program at the military exchange on Camp Foster Dec. 12. The toys are presented to families looking for assistance to provide their children with the best Christmas possible, on both Okinawa and throughout the Asia Pacific region. Cordova is a volunteer at Kubasaki High School. Photo by Pfc. Kasey Peacock

Pfc. Kasev Peacock

OKINAWA MARINE STAFE

CAMP FOSTER — The U.S. Marine Corps Forces Reserve Toys for Tots program is in full swing on Okinawa and will complete its 21st consecutive year serving local communities.

The program, which started in 1947, has allowed the Marine Corps to operate in a capacity outside its traditional role, according to Staff Sgt. Victor Rodriguez, the Toys for Tots head coordinator on Okinawa, currently serving with the III Marine Expeditionary Force reserve liaison office.

Volunteers with the program help collect and distribute toys to underprivileged children. Interacting with the local community by showing both gratitude and compassion for fellow citizens exemplifies the spirit and virtues the Marine Corps holds dear: honor, courage and commitment, added Rodriguez.

As Christmas approaches, service members and their families still have an opportunity to participate in the program, which is currently accepting donations at the military exchanges on Camps Kinser, Foster and Courtney, Kadena Air Base,

and U.S. Naval Hospital Okinawa on Camp Lester. Drop boxes are available at these locations through Dec. 24.

"For most children it's not about what's in the box," said Sgt. Michael A. Smyth, a Toys for Tots program volunteer and legal services chief with the Office of the Staff Judge Advocate, Headquarters and Service Battalion, Marine Corps Base Camp Butler, Marine Corps Installations Pacific. "The kids enjoy knowing that even though times may be tough, there is someone out there who cares."

The Marine Toys for Tots foundation is recognized by the Marine Corps as the authorized fundraising and support organization for the Toys for Tots program and is an official mission of the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve.

"I saw this as an opportunity to step outside of the normal operational tempo of the Marine Corps and interact within the local community," said Rodriguez. "Participating with Toys for Tots allows service members to bring hope to children around the globe."

The toys are donated to families who contact program representatives looking for assistance to provide their children with the best Christmas possible, both on Okinawa and throughout the Asia-Pacific region.

The program distributed 18,471 toys to more than 8,000 children last year, showing significant growth by more than doubling the 7,564 toys distributed five years ago.

The program on Okinawa is coordinated by the III MEF reserve liaison office and executed by active-duty personnel. The program relies heavily on both military and civilian volunteers.

"For the past 65 years, Marines have been giving back to their local communities through Toys for Tots," said Smyth. "I do it not only because it is a Marine Corps tradition, but also because it gives me a sense of pride and happiness knowing children will feel a little more loved this Christmas holiday."

The program has donated to more than 50 orphanages and schools on Okinawa.

"The children receiving the gifts are very appreciative," said Rodriguez. "For many of them, the toys they receive from the program may be the only gifts they get for Christmas."

For more information about the Toys for Tots program or volunteer opportunities, call 645-8068.

JSDF, Marines perfect command control during Yama Sakura

1st Lt. Jeremy A. Croft

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

KIN BLUE BEACH, OKINAWA, Japan — Marines and sailors with the 3rd Marine Expeditionary Brigade partnered with U.S. Army soldiers and members of the Japan Self-Defense Force Dec. 7-14 to conduct exercise Yama Sakura 63.

Led by U.S. Army Forces Pacific, Yama Sakura is an annual command post exercise designed to strengthen military operations and ties between U.S. forces and the JSDF and exercise mutual capabilities for the defense of Japan.

This year's iteration of Yama Sakura was significant because it was the first time 3rd MEB, a part of III Marine Expeditionary Force, has participated in the exercise since the unit's activation last December.

"At the 3rd MEB level, we're showing that we can integrate seamlessly with our Japanese allies to accomplish mission objectives," said Col. John A. Ostrowski, chief of staff for 3rd MEB. "At the strategic level, we're demonstrating that we, the United States, are a reliable partner and a committed ally."

The exercise provides a vital opportunity to increase the abilities of the Marines and sailors of 3rd MEB and to work together with their counterparts in the JSDF, according to Lt. Col. Rodney Legowski, the operations officer for 3rd MEB.

"It contributes greatly to our alliance," said Legowski. "It's a major exercise that is truly bilateral in nature and strengthens our relationships with the JSDF."

In command post exercises such as Yama Sakura, service members practice staff coordination and military decision making by reacting to a computer-based scenario rather than using actual combat units. But even though the units controlled by 3rd MEB are notional, the concepts rehearsed are very real.

"To train at a MEB level with all live forces would be very expensive, time-consuming, and it would perhaps come at the expense of other training objectives throughout the year," said Ostrowski. "So we set up response cells, which are groups of people in the simulation center that can initiate actions within the simulation according to the decisions we make and the guidance we give them from the staff.

"Essentially, it's a way to simulate all that while still replicating the staff and decisionmaking processes and orders that we would be doing in real life," said Ostrowski.

According to Legowski, this process closely

approximates real-world combat reporting and increases training value.

"The response cells are replicating our subordinate elements," said Legowski. "They are providing real-time updates on unit locations, current operations and anticipated future operations."

Once the data reaches the combat operations center, it is projected on a screen that enables 3rd MEB Marines and sailors to make decisions and respond to events as if they were engaged in actual combat operations.

Gunnery Sgt. Timothy Judd, the senior watch chief for 3rd MEB, acknowledged that command post exercises increase a unit's ability to operate as a fully-integrated Marine Air-Ground Task Force.

"We have to be able to fight the battle with not only that element that's in the fight, but everybody else who's in the MEB's sphere of influence," said Judd. "The MEB takes care of a threat or contingency by using their main subordinate commands, ensuring that information is coming up, and the answers are getting sent back down. That's what a command post exercise is all about."

This year's iteration of Yama Sakura is the 31st since the Japan-based exercise series began in 1982. The weeklong exercise is the culmination of several months of planning and bilateral coordination between U.S. and Japanese forces.

BRIEFS

COMEDY AND ENTERTAINMENT

"For the Leathernecks II Comedy and Entertainment Tour" is coming to the Camp Hansen Parade Deck – Big Top Dec. 14 and the Marine Corps Air Station Futenma Semper Fit Gym Dec. 15. Doors open at 1 p.m. and shows start at 2 p.m.

Come out and enjoy the free laughter and fun featuring comedians Alli Breen, Renee Gauthier, Rudy Rush and performer Kay.

MARINE CORPS POST OFFICE HOURS OF OPERATION IN OBSERVANCE OF THE UPCOMING HOLIDAYS

In observance of the upcoming Christmas and New Year's holidays, all Marine Corps post offices on Okinawa will observe the following schedule:

Dec. 24: Normal working hours

Dec. 25: Closed

Dec. 26: Closed

Dec. 27-30: Normal working hours

Dec. 31: Closed

Jan. 1, 2013: Closed

Jan. 2, 2013: Closed

Jan. 3, 2013: Normal hours resume Call 637-0124 for more details.

UPCOMING BLOOD DRIVES

The Armed Services Blood Bank Center is holding several blood drives during December. During the holiday season, it becomes difficult to meet the need for blood in the Pacific region. Help make this holiday season bright by giving the gift of life.

- Dec. 14 at Kadena Air Base building 938 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- Dec. 19 on Camp Lester at building 6017 from 12:30-4:30 p.m.
- Dec. 28 at Camp Schwab's Beachhead Enlisted Club from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

For more information, or to determine eligibility, call 643-7737.

2012 ANNUAL CYBER AWARENESS TRAINING REQUIREMENTS

Per Marine administrative message 118/11, all Marine Corps Installations Pacific and III Marine Expeditionary Force personnel with network access on Navy/Marine Corps Intranet, Marine Corps worldwide or secret internet protocol router network are required to complete their respective annual cyber awareness refresher training to maintain access to the network by Dec. 31.

Training must be conducted at www.marinenet.usmc.mil.

For assistance, call 645-5015 or send an email to MCIPACG6CSS@ usmc.mil.

TO SUBMIT A BRIEF, send an email to okinawamarine.mcbb.fct@usmc.mil, or fax your request to 645-3803. The deadline for submitting a brief is noon Friday. Okinawa Marine reserves the right to edit all submitted material.

Club awards scholarships

Cpl. Mark W. Stroud

ΟΚΙΝΔΙΛΙΔ ΜΑΡΙΝΕ STAFE

CAMP FOSTER — The Marine Officer Spouses' Club awarded four Marine spouses with scholarships during a ceremony at the Marine Gift Shop on Camp Foster Dec. 12.

The MOSC awards scholarships biannually to academically distinguished family members of active-duty Marines stationed on Okinawa and retired Marines living on Okinawa. The scholarships are awarded to spouses each winter and children each spring.

"It is great that the MOSC offers these scholarships because sometimes it is a challenge to align a career with having a Marine spouse," said Alexis C. Archer, a Marine wife and student at Michigan State University, who is pursuing a Master of Science degree in law enforcement and intelligence analysis. "The scholarship program enables us to do that."

The scholarships, worth a combined total of \$6,250, will be used to help the recipients pursue opportunities at all levels of higher education, including distance education such as online degree programs.

"Education can be very expensive and out of reach for some dependents, so these scholarships can help," said Sara Dowse, scholarship chairwoman of the MOSC.

The scholarships are meritbased and awarded following the review of an applicant's submission by a MOSC committee based



Alexis C. Archer, left, is awarded a Marine officer spouses' club scholarship by Sara Dowse at the Marine gift shop on Camp Foster Dec. 12. Dowse is the scholarship chairwoman of MOSC. Photo by Lance Cpl. Terrence G. Brady

on a predetermined scoring system, according to Dowse.

The spouses' club manages the annual scholarship program as well as participating in other community service and volunteer programs throughout the island.

"The purpose of the MOSC is to provide charitable donations to Japanese and Americans on Okinawa," said Kate Johnson, MOSC president. "We give back through scholarships and through the American Women's Welfare Association."

The AWWA consists of different military spouse organizations on Okinawa associated with all branches of service, according to Johnson. The association works together to provide donations to causes such as youth organizations, youth sports leagues and the USO. Donations are divided

equally between Japanese and American organizations.

Funding for the MOSC is based on profits from the Marine Gift Shop, and a biannual auction that primarily features Asian furniture, collectibles and antiques.

The support of the MOSC helps ensure Marines and their families receive the help they need to meet their academic goals.

"It is more important than ever that we offer family members these type of opportunities now that we are so far away from America," said Johnson. "They don't always get the same looks they would get in the states as far as scholarship opportunities ... so we give them a chance."

For more information about applying for a MOSC scholarship, visit the MOSC website at MOSCOkinawa1.org.

JGSDF members experience flight simulator



2nd Lt. Ikunari Kashiwagi straps himself into a CH-46E Sea Knight helicopter simulator at Marine Corps Air Station Futenma Dec. 5 during a Japan Observer Exchange Program event. Kashiwagi is a helicopter pilot with 1st Headquarters Brigade, 102 Aviation Unit, JGSDF. Photo by Pfc. Kasey Peacock

FURY from pg 1 with MWSS-171, MAG-12.

MWSS-171 conducted 13 arrestments in under an hour, breaking its previous record of 10 set in June during Exercise Geiger Fury 2012, also on Tinian.

"We coordinated with the aircraft on the radio, they came in, let the hook down, and took the arrestment," said Halbert. "Then, the Marines came and got the wire and, as they taxied clear of the runway, the Marines reset the cable and prepared to take the next aircraft."

Tinian has proven itself an ideal expeditionary training location for the Marines and sailors thus far as the training seamlessly shifted from arrested landings to 24-hour surge operations.

Surge operations are expected to last roughly 80 hours and simulate a continuous operational tempo.

"Surge operations are basically Marine Aircraft Group 12 showing in force how they can do continuous flight operations in a simulated hostile environment," said Master Sgt. Roy L. Clayton Jr.,



An F/A-18D Hornet aircraft accelerates down the runway Dec. 7 during Exercise Forager Fury 2012. The aircraft was one of six to make 13 total arrested landings within one hour on the runway. The aircraft is with Marine All-Weather Fighter Attack Squadron 225, which is currently assigned to Marine Aircraft Group 12 under the unit deployment program Photo by Lance Cpl. J. Gage Karwick

the staff noncommissioned officer in charge of Marine forces on Tinian, MWSS-171, MAG-12. "They are training to get the maximum amount of flights, and we are training to provide the best aviation ground support possible."

During the surge, MWSS-171 will provide support for various types of aircraft.

"We are expecting mostly F/A-18s, but we will also get some MH-60s from the Navy and some MV-22B Ospreys during surge operations," said Clayton. "Surge operations should last for at least three to four days."

In order to maintain a constant tempo, Marines and sailors will work in shifts to keep everybody fresh.

"We are going to do two rotational shifts at 12 hours each to give some of the Marines a break and bring fresh, well-rested Marines in," said Clayton.

Safety is the main priority for any Marine Corps exercise, and this one is no different.

"For the upcoming surge event, our plan is to be within a two-minute standby time to be ready for any possible emergencies that the aircraft might have," said Staff Sgt. Joaquin Moreno, an expeditionary airfield technician and runway supervisor with the squadron. "A two-minute standby is the time we are allotted during an in-flight emergency to have the arresting gear ready to take an emergency arrestment."

Six F/A-18s, six MH-60s and two KC-130J Hercules aircraft landed on Tinian during the first day of surge training. The surge training, which concludes today, is the final training evolution during Forager Fury 2012.

PHILIPPINES from pg 1

aircraft with Marine Aerial Refueler Transport Squadron 152 arrived in Manila from Marine Corps Air Station Futenma Dec. 8 to transport relief supplies to affected areas, according to Lt. Col. Jason W. Julian, the commanding officer of VMGR-152, part of Marine Aircraft Group 36, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, III MEF.

"As of Dec. 12, VMGR-152 has flown a total of 11 flights and transported approximately 330,000 lbs. of relief supplies, including 14,500 family ration packs, 500 relief aid boxes and 40 generators," said Julian. "We also transported four water purification specialists and three personnel from USAID and the Philippine Department of Social Welfare and Development were transported to Davao. It's critical we work with everyone involved in the relief efforts to expediently get these supplies to those affected by the typhoon and in need."

The squadron also has transported 49,000 pounds of rice, 147 bundles of mosquito nets, one water purification unit, approximately 29,000 pounds of blankets, 833 sleeping mats and a United Nation's World Food Programme relief module and three of their tents.

Marines transported relief supplies from Villamor Air Base located in Manila to Davao International Airport in Mindanao, the region most affected by the typhoon. From Davao, the supplies were principally distributed by government and nongovernmental organizations to displaced families affected by the typhoon as directed by

the Philippine Department of Social Welfare and Development and the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council.

'We're seeing a collective response from the international community to support the Philippines," said Menotti. "We are happy to help our close allies-standing shoulder-toshoulder—in order to provide necessary aid. The Philippine government began its operations immediately. It's inspiring to see other nations assist the Philippine government and seek ways to support and reinforce their efforts. The U.S. government—including U.S. Marine forces—is providing robust logistical and aviation support to quickly deliver life-saving supplies in support of humanitarian assistance and disaster relief efforts."

U.S. and Philippine armed forces are working hand-in-hand on missions to ensure relief supplies get to the main distribution hub, so that they can reach those most in need. The Philippine government has led the effort to help its citizens following the typhoon.

The U.S. military has partnered and trained with the Armed Forces of the Philippines for many years in humanitarian assistance and disaster relief operations, according to Menotti.

"We frequently prepare for situations like this with our Philippine allies, so we are ready to work together to support the Philippine government and its citizens during this difficult time," said Menotti. "Our goal is to help our ally recover from this natural disaster in whatever way we can."

PULLUP from pg 1

The flexed-arm hang will remain in place for initial testing for female Marine recruits and officer candidates until January 2014 when they will have to perform pullups to graduate.

The battalion commander and sergeant major of Headquarters and Service Battalion, Marine Corps Base Camp Butler, Marine Corps Installations Pacific, held an initial pull-up assessment for all female Marines with the battalion.

The goal was to educate female Marines and their leaders on the 2013 training plan targeting pull-up development, according to Col. Katherine J. Estes, the battalion's commanding officer.

"I have had to adapt to many changes in the Marine Corps," said Estes. "As Marines we have to continuously work every day to earn our eagle, globe and anchor, and this is another opportunity for us to do that."

The commandant also directed the commanding general of Training and Education Command to create a website with workout routines specifically for female Marines to adjust to the changes.

"I think this is a great implementation that will make things fairer between male and female Marines across the board," said Lance Cpl. Katelyn M. Hunter, a combat photographer with combat camera, G-3/5, operations and training, MCB Camp Butler, MCIPAC. "Females have to stray away from the 'I can't' mindset when it comes to pullups. With consistency and the ability to push yourself, the new implementation should be a good challenge that females can conquer."

To pass this portion of the PFT, female Marines will need to complete a minimum of three dead-hang pullups or maximum of eight for a perfect score. Currently males must also do a minimum of three pullups, but are required to complete 20 repetitions for a perfect score.

"Females need to realize we all have to start somewhere, and we have more than enough time to prepare for this," said Cpl. Ada P. Canizaleztejada, an administrative specialist with the battalion. "About a year ago, I was only doing two pullups. I began weightlifting and targeting specific muscles beneficial for doing pullups, and now I can do nine."

The point system for the new changes will be three pullups for 40 points, four pullups for 65, five pullups for 75, six pullups for 85, seven pullups for 95 and eight pullups for 100.

"As Marines, we rise to any occasion," said 1st Lt. Ericka A. Hansen, the installation law attorney, MCIPAC. "I have complete confidence that the female Marines will do exactly that."

*Holiday celebrations bring



Marines with the III Marine Expeditionary Force Band preform holiday-themed music Dec. 6 at the Camp Foster Theater. Their annual performance included comedy skits, traditional holiday music and a mini-rock concert. The event brought a taste of the holidays to service members and families who are unable to travel home. Photo by Lance Cpl. Anne K. Henry



Children from Henoko district's Kube **Elementary School and Kindergarten** watch as a boy gets his face painted at the 31st annual Christmas children's day at the Camp Schwab USO. Marines, sailors and civilian volunteers spent the day celebrating Christmas with community members from the district. Photo by Lance Cpl. Elizabeth A. Case



Vendors share in the holiday cheer as they prepare a variety of food for attendees Dec. 9 during Courtney Fest 2012 at Camp Courtney. Courtney Fest and events like it provide opportunities for people of all ages to share and experience traditions and entertainment from American and Okinawan cultures. Photo by Lance Cpl. Terence G. Brady

Service members light candles during a Hanukkah festival at the Camp Foster Chapel Dec. 9. The event consisted of religious readings and traditions such as the lighting of the menorah. Each of the candles on the menorah represents a different day of the eight-day holiday. Photo by Lance Cpl. Brandon C. Suhi







Students of Kube Elementary School and Kindergarten in Henoko district, along with their t Camp Schwab USO Dec. 8. More than 120 children received presents from Santa Claus and h holidays. Photo by Lance Cpl. Elizabeth A. Case



URE DECEMBER 14, 2012

communities together *







Marines and sailors "pull" Santa Claus in a mine-resistant ambush protected "sleigh" Dec. 7 during the 2012 jingle bell fun run at Camp Hansen. Marines and sailors with units stationed on Camp Hansen participated in the run to spread holiday cheer and build unit cohesion. The Marines and sailors are with Service Company, 7th Communication Battalion, III Marine Expeditionary Force Headquarters Group, III MEF. Photo by Lance Cpl. Michael Oxton



amilies, gather around Santa Claus to receive presents at the 31st annual Christmas children's day at the is volunteers at the event. Henoko district and Camp Schwab host the event each year to celebrate the



A child poses for a picture on Mrs. Claus' lap Dec. 9 during Courtney Fest 2012 at Camp Courtney. Courtney Fest is an annual open-base event that includes a static display of military vehicles, live entertainment by U.S. and local entertainers, games and activities for children of all ages, food, music, dances and prize giveaways.

Photo by Pfc. Kasey Peacock



Marines with Combat Engineer Company detonate an oval charge and prepare to enter a building during urban mobility breaching training Dec. 6 at the Central Training Area near Camp Schwab. During the training, the Marines learned to make different charges to breach doors, windows and walls. The Marines also practiced security tactics, movement techniques, protective measures when working with explosives, and what to do in the event of a failed breach. The company is part of Combat Assault Battalion, 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force.

Engineers breach entryways

Story and photos by Lance Cpl. Daniel E. Valle

s sunlight breaks through thick cloud cover, voices echo through the urban terrain. "Five, four, three, two, one - fire in the hole!" "Boom!" The blast is followed by a burst of fire and smoke that extends nearly 12 feet from the explosion. A stack of Marines waits anxiously behind a protective blanket, ready for their next move.

Explosions and crisp combat skills were on display as Marines with Combat Engineer Company, part of Combat Assault Battalion, 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force, conducted urban mobility breaching



Marines with Combat Engineer Company provide security and set up a protective blanket during urban mobility breaching training Dec. 6 at the Central Training Area near Camp Schwab. The training allowed Marines to maintain proficiency in their military occupational specialty.

training Dec. 6 at the Central Training Area near Camp Schwab.

"We are conducting urban mobility breaching training to ensure we are maintaining proficiency in our military occupational specialty," said Staff Sgt. Justin R. Straws, a combat engineer and platoon sergeant with the company. "As part of the division, we support the infantry, and this training makes it easier for the infantry to enter buildings and do its job."

During the training, the Marines made different charges for specific means of entry.

"We made window, oval, linear detonation cord, fence and doughnut charges out of detonation cord and C-4 explosives in order to breach doors, windows, fences and walls," said Cpl. Shannon A. Parks, a combat engineer with the company. "We also went over how to provide security, move together in a formation called a stack, set the charges, protect ourselves from the explosion, and what to do in the event of a failed breach."

The training was successful and beneficial to all who participated, as some of the Marines are new to the unit, according to 2nd Lt. Jason J. Romero, a platoon commander with

"With a good amount of our Marines leaving and new Marines filling their spots, the training seemed to start off a little slow," said Romero. "However, with the more experienced Marines here to help teach, the training progressed smoothly, and they really learned fast."

The training also helped build camaraderie within the unit, according to Straws.

"I love being out here," said Straws. "Being in the field gets us closer together by giving us a



Marines with Combat Engineer Company calculate the net explosive weight of the charges they will use during urban mobility breaching training Dec. 6 at the Central Training Area near Camp Schwab.

chance to talk to each other and build the trust between us - it builds our unit cohesion."

When dealing with explosives, it is important to ensure everyone is using the proper personal protective equipment to avoid injuries during training, according to Parks.

'Safety comes first out here," said Parks. "We make sure everyone wears a flak jacket, Kevlar helmet, ear and eye protection and gloves. We always use the protective blanket while breaching, and we keep a safe distance from the explosions."

The Marines enjoyed the training and look forward to conducting it in the future, accord-

"The training was great," said Parks. "The Marines learned a lot, it was a really good time, and we would like to conduct this training

Interaction strengthens relationships

Story and photos by Lance Cpl. Elizabeth A. Case

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

he winter season is a time when families and friends get together in celebration and fellowship. The tradition continues as Okinawa and American communities find many ways to participate in seasonal celebrations.

Events such as the 31st annual children's Christmas day Dec. 8 at the Camp Schwab USO and a Nabe party at the Urumin Welfare Center, Uruma, Dec. 10 provide opportunities for community members and service members to celebrate together.

"These events are especially important for the Marines since many of them will stay on the island during the holiday season," said Scott Flagg, the camp director of Camp Courtney. "Community relations events are something to do, and we get to see how Okinawans spend the holiday season."

Children's day began at 11 a.m. outside the USO with opening greetings by Col. Richard D. Hall, the Camp Schwab commander.

"We have a really special relationship with Henoko," Hall said. "We are the same community, just separated by a fence. This is one more occasion to continue strengthening our relationship."

"I had fun playing with the

nice and kind to me."

Americans. They were really

More than 120 children from the Henoko district attended the event, which was hosted by more than 80 Marine, sailor and civilian volunteers. Okinawan and American

children enjoyed bounce houses, face painting, table tennis, billiards, video games and a visit from Santa Claus.

"It was fun to see Santa Claus," said Nikki Kohagura, a 7-year-old child who came to the USO with her family. "I had fun playing with the Americans. They were really nice and kind to me."

Kohagura's mother agreed with her daughter



Cpl. Andre Thomas, right, tries food prepared by students and volunteers in the Camp Courtney English language class at the Urumin Welfare Center Dec. 10. Okinawan students and Marine volunteers got together at the center for a Nabe party. Nabe is a variety of traditional Okinawan food popular in the winter season.

and was happy to see everyone enjoying time with family and friends.

"The children's Christmas day is a family event, and it's good to get together as a family with the Americans," said Kumi Kohagura. "The more kids – the more fun."

Events like the children's day are important

to bring the communities together, according to Hall.

Volunteers at the event played games with the children, served food, and helped Santa Claus pass out

gifts during his visit. Okinawan children sang Christmas carols in Japanese to conclude the event and thank their hosts.

Nikki Kohagura

"Christmas is a time we share with our family, and Okinawans are like our new family, so it's a great time to spend with them," said Lance Cpl. Rosa Alvarez, an ammunition technician with Combat Logistics Regiment 35, 3rd Marine Logistics Group, III Marine Expeditionary Force.

The Nabe party at the Urumin Welfare Center was another opportunity for residents of Okinawa to share the holiday cheer. Nabe is a variety of Japanese food popular in the winter season, typically prepared for a family setting. Okinawan students who attend an English language class at Camp Courtney arranged the party to practice speaking English while teaching American volunteers how to cook a variety of Nabe meals.

"We want the military people to have an experience living in Okinawa," said Mami Chibana, an Okinawan student in the class who attended the Nabe party. "We want to show \them the culture, and I think it's one more experience where we can learn their culture and practice their culture, too."

Coming together to celebrate old traditions and learn new ones offers service members an opportunity to enjoy their well-earned time off.

"The Okinawans and Americans can learn from each other," said Flagg. "We get to interact as friends rather than just as neighbors."



Marine Corps museum staff visits Okinawa

Lance Cpl. Terence G. Brady

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

If the past holds the key to the future, museums are gate keepers to building a better tomorrow. The Marine Corps demonstrates an institutional belief in this principle by working hand-in-hand with the Marine Corps Heritage Foundation to preserve and celebrate the history of the Marine Corps at the National Museum of the Marine Corps.

Representatives from the museum visited Okinawa Dec. 3-7 as part of an effort to record the history of the battle that took place on the island, including visiting the Battle of Okinawa Historical display at Camp Kinser Dec. 4.

The museum, based in Quantico, Va., continues to expand its collection, and in its final state will display more than 200 years of Marine Corps history and lore.

"Ever since the museum opened in 2006, we have made it our mission to track down and ensure the preservation of all Marine Corps history," said Owen Connor, a uniforms curator for the museum. "Making sure the stories and historical items are not lost to time is our ultimate goal."

The representatives visited battle sites across Okinawa in addition to the historical display to assess historical items, gauge the preservation of historical sites on Okinawa and record the history of the battle.

"We are looking to enhance the World War II section of the museum," said Connor. "We want to make the galleries more immersive to allow people to have an idea of what it felt like to be at the battles."

Most people who visit the museum will not have the chance to visit Okinawa and see the sites firsthand, therefore it is imperative that everything at the exhibit accurately represent the historical events it portrays, Connor added.

One of the most difficult aspects of the museum's mission is that the museum cannot actively ask for war relics.

"We are essentially dependent on the efforts and donations of people willing to support us," said Stefan J. Rohal, a registrar for the museum "The World War II generation is passing on, and it is increasingly hard for us to acquire items from that generation."

"The most important thing for us is to help preserve the Marine Corps history," said Rohal. "The museum exists to tell their story in its entirety."

Telling this story provides the public, the current generation of Marines and all generations to follow with a readily accessible platform for the exploration of Marine Corps history and a foundation with which to build its future.



In Theaters Now

DECEMBER 14-20

FOSTER

TODAY The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 2 (PG13), 6 p.m.; Killing Them Softly (R), 9 p.m.

SATURDAY The Muppets (PG), noon; The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 2 (PG13), 3 and 6 p.m.; House at the End of the Street (PG13), 9 p.m.

SUNDAY The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 2 (PG13), 1 p.m.; Playing for Keeps (PG13), 4 and 7 p.m.

MONDAY The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 2

TUESDAY The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 2

WEDNESDAY Life of Pi (PG), 7 p.m. THURSDAY Playing for Keeps (PG13), 7 p.m.

KADENA

TODAY House at the End of the Street (PG13), 6 p.m.; End of Watch (R), 9 p.m.

SATURDAY Skyfall (PG13), noon; House at the End of the Street (PG13), 4 p.m.; Killing Them Softly (R), 7 p.m. SUNDAY Skyfall (PG13), noon; House at the End of the Street (PG13), 4 p.m.; Killing Them Softly (R), 7 p.m. **MONDAY** Killing Them Softly (R), 7 p.m.

TUESDAY Red Dawn (PG13), 7 p.m. WEDNESDAY Red Dawn (PG13), 7 p.m. THURSDAY End of Watch (R), 7 p.m.

COURTNEY

TODAY Playing for Keeps (PG13), 6 and 9 p.m. **SATURDAY** The Muppets (PG), 2 p.m.; House at the End of the Street (PG13), 6 p.m.

SUNDAY Red Dawn (PG13), 2 and 6 p.m.

MONDAY House at the End of the Street (PG13), 7 p.m.

WEDNESDAY End of Watch (R), 7 p.m.

THURSDAY Closed

FUTENMA

TODAY The Man with the Iron Fists (R), 6:30 p.m. SATURDAY Playing for Keeps (PG13), 4 and 7 p.m. SUNDAY Taken 2 (PG13), 4 p.m.; Abraham Lincoln: Vam-

pire Hunter (R), 7 p.m. MONDAY Red Dawn (PG13), 6:30 p.m.

TUESDAY Closed **WEDNESDAY** Closed **THURSDAY** Closed

KINSER

TODAY House at the End of the Street (PG13), 6:30 p.m. **SATURDAY** Rise of the Guardians (PG), 3 p.m.; End of Watch (R), 6:30 p.m.

SUNDAY Rise of Guardians (PG), 3 p.m.; House at the End of the Street (PG13), 6:30 p.m.

MONDAY-TUESDAY Closed

WEDNESDAY Playing for Keeps (PG13), 3 and 6:30 p.m. **THURSDAY** Red Dawn (PG13), 6:30 p.m.

SCHWAB

TODAY Red Dawn (PG13), 6 and 9 p.m. **SATURDAY** Won't Back Down (PG), 6 and 9 p.m. **SUNDAY** Life of Pi (PG), 6 and 9 p.m. **MONDAY-THURSDAY** Closed

HANSEN

TODAY Life of Pi (PG), 7 p.m.; End of Watch (R), 10 p.m. SATURDAY Red Dawn (PG13), 6 and 9 p.m.

SUNDAY House at the End of the Street (PG13), 2 p.m.;

End of Watch (R), 5:30 p.m.

MONDAY Playing for Keeps (PG13), 6 and 9 p.m.

TUESDAY Playing for Keeps (PG13), 6 and 9 p.m. WEDNESDAY House at the End of the Street

THURSDAY Killing Them Softly (R), 7 p.m.

THEATER DIRECTORY

CAMP FOSTER 645-3465 KADENA AIR BASE 634-1869 (USO NIGHT) 632-8781 MCAS FUTENMA 636-3890 (USO NIGHT) 636-2113 CAMP COURTNEY 622-9616 CAMP HANSEN 623-4564 (USO NIGHT) 623-5011 CAMP KINSER 637-2177 CAMP SCHWAB 625-2333 (USO NIGHT) 625-3834

Movie schedule is subject to change without notice. Call in advance to confirm show times. For a complete listing,

visit www.shopmyexchange.com.



SINGLE

For more information or to sign up, contact the Single Marine Program at 645-3681.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

• Toys for Tots needs volunteers to man the donation boxes every Friday through Sunday in three-hour shifts from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Volunteers can call 622-9636 or email ahmed.walker@usmc.mil for more information.

SMP BLACK AND WHITE HOLIDAY PARTY - DEC. 24

• The single Marine program has cancelled the black and white holiday dinner that was scheduled to take place Dec. 24 at Manza Beach Resort. For more information, call 645-3681.

CAMP FUJI SKI TRIP - FEB. 15-19

• Feel the rush of the outdoors during the SMP Camp Fuji ski trip in February. Contact the SMP office for more information and to sign up.

Mention of any company in this notice does not constitute endorsement by the Marine Corps.

Japanese phrase of the week:

Ake mashite omedeto gozaimasu pronounced: Ah-kee mah-sh-te oh-meh-deh-toh goh-zah-ee-mahs) means, Happy New Year!"

CAMP FOSTER | 645-7486 · MAIN CHAPEL:

Dec. 14- 6:30 p.m., Shabbat Hanukkah Evening Service

Dec. 15- 10 a.m., Shabbat Hanukkah Morning

Dec. 17- 6 p.m., Catholic Advent Penance Service

Dec. 19- 4:30 p.m., Protestant Choir Potluck and Hymn Singing
Dec. 24- 5 p.m., Catholic Christmas Eve Mass

6:30 p.m., Gospel/Protestant Christmas Eve Candle Light Service

Dec. 25- 9 a.m., Catholic Christmas Day Mass Noon, Christian Science (Bldg. 442)

Dec. 31- 11 p.m., Gospel/Protestant New Year's Eve Watch Night Service

1:15 a.m., Gospel/Protestant New Year Breakfast (Bldg. 455) 11:45 a.m., Solemnity of Mary, Mother of

God Catholic Mass Noon, Christian Science (Bldg. 442)

ORTHODOX CHAPEL: Dec. 16- 7:30 a.m., Confession 10 a.m., Hours and Divine Liturgy

Dec. 22- 6 p.m., Great Vespers

Dec. 23- 9:30 a.m., Divine Liturgy

Dec. 24- 9:30 a.m., Vespers and Divine Liturgy 6 p.m., Compline and Matins

Dec. 25- 9:30 a.m., Hours and Divine Liturgy Dec. 26- 9:30 a.m., Hours and Divine Liturgy

CAMP COURTNEY | 622-9350

Dec. 24- 7 p.m., Protestant Christmas Eve Service (Joint McTureous and Courtney) 11 p.m., Catholic Christmas Eve Mass

Dec. 31- 7 p.m., Catholic Vigil Mass

CAMP LESTER | 643-7248

Dec. 24- 6 p.m., Protestant Christmas Eve Service

Dec. 25- 9 a.m., Catholic Christmas Day Mass

CAMP KINSER | 637-1148

Dec. 24- 5 p.m., Catholic Christmas Eve Mass; 7:30 p.m., Protestant Christmas Eve Candlelight Service



Dec. 24- 7 p.m., Catholic Christmas Eve Mass

MCAS FUTENMA | 636-3058

Dec. 24- 5 p.m., Protestant Christmas Eve Service Dec. 25- 9 a.m., Catholic Christmas Day Mass

Dec. 31- 6 p.m., Protestant New Year's Day Service

CAMP HANSEN | 623-4226/623-4832 • WEST CHAPEL:

Dec. 24- 7 p.m., Protestant Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

• EAST CHAPEL:

Dec. 25- 10 a.m., Catholic Christmas Day Mass

Dec. 31- 5 p.m., New Year's Eve Mass

KADENA AIR BASE | 634-1288 WWW.KADENACHAPEL.ORG



• CHAPEL 1:

Dec. 23- 8:30 and 11:45 a.m., 4 p.m., Catholic Mass

Dec. 23- 10 a.m., Contemporary Worship Service Dec. 24- 4 p.m., Catholic Christmas Vigil

Midnight, Catholic Christmas Midnight Mass

Dec. 24- 7:30 p.m., Christmas Eve Candlelight

Dec. 25- 9 a.m., Catholic Christmas Day Mass Dec. 30- 8:30 and 11:45 a.m., 4 p.m., Catholic Mass

Dec. 30- 10 a.m., Contemporary Worship Service Dec. 31- 4 p.m., Catholic Vigil Mass

11:30 a.m., Catholic Mass

• CHAPEL 2:

Dec. 23- 9:30 a.m., Traditional Worship Service Dec. 30- 9:30 a.m., Traditional Worship Service

• CHAPEL 3:

Dec. 23- 10:30 a.m., Gospel

Worship Service Dec. 24- 5 p.m., Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Dec. 30- 10:30 a.m., Gospel Worship Service

Dec. 31- 10:30 p.m. New Year's Eve Worship



